



Ms Liv Garfield,  
CEO, Severn Trent,  
2 St Johns Street  
Coventry  
CV1 2LZ

September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Ms Garfield,

### **Sewage Overflow Problems – Long Itchington, Warwickshire**

As Chair of Long Itchington Parish Council (LIPC) I am writing to you on behalf of the Parish Council and residents of Long Itchington to ask you to direct Severn Trent to take immediate action to stop the regular overflows of raw sewage into residents' gardens, public roads and into the River Itchen. This is blighting our community, causing considerable distress to the people directly affected and endangering public health.

These overflows have been occurring since 2017 and are the direct result of errors made by your company when assessing and mis-directing the connecting of a new housing development (Spinney Fields) of 150 houses into the existing village drainage systems. As a result of Severn Trent's actions, every time there is a heavy rain event, storm water enters the foul drainage system resulting in raw sewage flooding into our village.

I attach a summary history of this issue that provides all the background and detail and highlights the initial error made by Severn Trent at the planning stage of the housing development concerned and the problems that have ensued. I also attach a map.

The residents of Long Itchington have been extremely patient while attempts have been made to resolve the problems. However, after three years it is clear that these attempts have failed and the physical and mental health of residents (including children attending a local nursery) continues to be put at risk. Ongoing environmental damage is also being caused by the sewage overflows that run into storm drains and discharge directly into the River Itchen.

LIPC requires Severn Trent, as a matter of urgency, to produce an action plan (with a clear timetable) setting out how you intend to stop future sewage overflows occurring. LIPC believes that the only effective solution is the construction of a new section of sewer to directly connect the foul discharge from the new Spinney Fields housing development into the foul water system. This new sewer is needed to replace the current failed solution of a combined storm/foul drain.



LIPC understands that the works to rectify the problem will require input from a number of different teams within Severn Trent that will need coordination and authorisation before the work is approved. LIPC is also concerned that further delays could result from internal prioritisation of limited funds within Severn Trent. Any such further delay is unacceptable to LIPC and our community and we expect Severn Trent to find whatever funding is necessary to prevent future sewage overflows occurring.

I would request that you identify a senior representative who can lead on this matter who has authority to act across all the relevant departments within your company. I attach below the contact details of Councillor Jonathan Venn (Vice-Chair of the Parish Council) who will act as the contact point on behalf of LIPC.

Finally, I would like to place on record our appreciation of the support and assistance we have received from your local representatives, Mr Luke McCusker and his predecessor Mr Aaron McCusker. They have always responded in a helpful and timely manner when issues have arisen and continue to work to seek a permanent solution, but despite their efforts we still have serious problems in our village.

I am copying this letter to Ofwat, the Environment Agency, Jeremy Wright MP and to our local District and County Councillors.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Barbara Atkins'.

Barbara Atkins  
Chair Long Itchington Parish Council

cc Rachel Fletcher CEO Ofwat, Environment Agency, Jeremy Wright MP, Cllr Andy Crump (Warwickshire County Council), Cllr Louis Adam (Stratford District Council)

enc: Summary History, Appendix, map

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